

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2000-210-W/S - ORDER NO. 2005-636

OCTOBER 31, 2005

IN RE: Application of United Utility Companies, Inc. for Approval of an Increase in its Water and Sewer Services Provided to all of its Service Areas in South Carolina.	) ORDER RELEASING ) BOND AND CLOSING ) REFUNDS )
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This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Certificate of Refund furnished by United Utility Companies, Inc. (United or the Company), in accordance with the requirements of Commission Order No. 2004-254, dated May 19, 2004.

Under this Order, the Company was required to refund, on a pro rata basis to its customers who had paid rates approved under bond as permitted in Order No. 2002-494 in this docket, the principal sum of \$21,446.34 plus interest at 12% per annum and additional principal of \$1,007.58 for any month after May, 2004 in which the Company collected the rates approved under bond. The rates approved in Order No. 2004-254 were placed into effect on June 1, 2004 and, accordingly, the total amount of refund due thereunder was \$25,339.09, which includes the required interest, according to the Company. The Company noted that it effected refunds to customers as required by Order No. 2004-254 through bill credits or refund checks, said refunds having been issued on or about August 5, 2004. Further, according to the Company, notwithstanding its diligent

efforts to effect all refunds due, there remains \$6.40 in refunds due the Company's customers under Order No. 2004-254 which is undistributed. Certain customers entitled to a refund have either moved and left no forwarding address, provided a forwarding address that is no longer valid, or have failed to negotiate their refund checks.

The Company is holding the remaining refund amount of \$6.40 that is due the customers who cannot be located and requests the Commission's determination with respect to the disposition of this undistributed refund amount.

United further requests that, in rendering its determination in this matter, the Commission also authorize the Company to cancel the bond approved in this docket to avoid unnecessary premium expense in the current amount of \$7,795. The Company is willing to maintain the undistributed refund amount of \$6.40 in a separate account, deposit same with the Commission, or otherwise provide for its preservation as may be directed by the Commission.

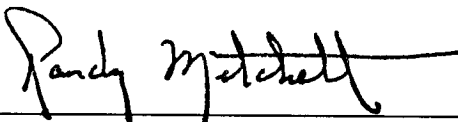
The Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) reviewed the matter, and does not object to this Commission issuing an Order canceling the bond approved in Order No. 2002-494. Further, ORS considers the undistributed \$6.40 to be *de minimus*, and that agency sees no reason to require United to maintain that amount in a separate account. ORS states that it does not object to the Commission closing the matter of refunds in this Docket.

We have examined this matter and agree with ORS that the \$6.40 amount is *de minimus*, and that the Company is authorized to no longer maintain this undistributed amount in a separate account. We believe that United has done everything that it can do to make proper refunds in this Docket. We hereby close the matter of refunds in this


Docket. This Commission also authorizes the Company to cancel the bond approved in Commission Order No. 2002-494.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
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Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice-Chairman

(SEAL)